WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for processing packages, the method comprising:

receiving a package at an intermediate shipping site;

determining a delivery authorization status corresponding to the package; and

5   delivering the package if the authorization status is that delivery is acceptable and not

delivering the package if the authorization status is that delivery is not acceptable.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein determining a delivery

authorization status comprises:

10   receiving a message; and

determining, from the message, message information comprising at least one of the

following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee

of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.

15   3.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein receiving a message comprises

receiving a message from a sender of the package.

4.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein receiving a message comprises

receiving a message from an addressee of the package.

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5.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein determining a delivery

authorization status comprises:

determining, from the received package, package information comprising at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, and an identification of the package.

5   6.   The method as recited in claim 5, wherein determining a delivery authorization status further comprises:

determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the package information matches the message information.

10   7.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein determining a delivery authorization status further comprises:

determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the determined sender identification matches one of a plurality of predefined senders and determining the authorization status as delivery is not acceptable if the determined sender

15   identification does not match any of the plurality of predefined senders.

8.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein receiving a message comprises receiving an e-mail message.

20   9.   The method as recited in claim 8, wherein determining a delivery authorization status comprises:

parsing the e-mail message into at least one of the following: an identification of the

sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of

the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.

5   10.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein receiving a message comprises

receiving a first e-mail message from a sender of the package and a second e-mail message

from an addressee of the package.

          11.   The method as recited in claim 10, wherein determining a delivery

10   authorization status comprises:

          determining, from the first e-mail message, at least one of the following: an

identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package,

an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package;

          determining, from the second e-mail message, at least one of the following: an

15   identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package,

and an identification of the package;

          determining, from the second e-mail message, a delivery authorization status as either

delivery is acceptable or delivery is not acceptable; and

          designating the package for delivery if the information determined from the first e-

20   mail message matches the information determined from the second e-mail message and if the

delivery authorization status determined from the second e-mail message is delivery is

acceptable.

12.   The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising storing at least one of following: the delivery authorization status, the sender identification, the addressee identification, the package identification, and the projected delivery date of the package.

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13.   A method for processing packages, the method comprising:

receiving information identifying an expected package;

receiving a package;

determining identifying information from the received package;

10   comparing the information identifying the expected package to the identifying information from the received package; and

designating the package for delivery if the information identifying the expected package matches the identifying information from the received package.

15   14.   The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

designating the package for non-delivery if the information identifying the expected package does not match the identifying information from the received package.

15.   A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for

20   determining a delivery authorization status corresponding to a received package, the instructions, when executed on a processor, causing the processor to perform the following:

receiving information identifying the received package;

receiving information identifying an expected package;

comparing the information identifying the expected package to the information identifying the received package; and

designating the package for delivery if the information identifying the expected

5   package matches the information identifying the received package.

16.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to perform designating the package for non-delivery if the information identifying the expected package does not match the information

10   identifying the received package.

17.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying the received package comprises receiving information from one of a user interface and a bar code scanner.

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18.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying the received package comprises receiving package information comprising at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, the addressee of the package, and an identification of the package.

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19.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying an expected package comprises receiving an e-mail message.

20. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein information identifying an expected package further comprises determining, from the e-mail message, information comprising at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the

5 package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.

21. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein receiving an e-mail message comprises receiving an e-mail message from a sender of the package.

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22. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein receiving an e-mail message comprises receiving an e-mail message from an addressee of the package.

23. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the

15 instructions further cause the processor to perform:

determining a sender of the package;

comparing the sender of the package to a plurality of predefined senders; and

designating the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the determined package sender matches one of the plurality of predefined senders and

20 designating the delivery authorization status as delivery is not acceptable if the determined package sender does not match any of the plurality of predefined senders.

24. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein receiving information identifying an expected package comprises:

parsing the e-mail message into at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of

5 the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.

25. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying the received package and receiving information identifying an expected package comprises receiving a first e-mail message from a sender of the package

10 and a second e-mail message from an addressee of the package.

26. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 25, receiving information identifying the received package and receiving information identifying an expected package comprises:

15 determining, from the first e-mail message, at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package;

determining, from the second e-mail message, at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package,

20 and an identification of the package;

determining, from the second e-mail message, a delivery authorization status as either delivery is acceptable or delivery is not acceptable; and

designating the package for delivery if the information determined from the first e-mail message matches the information determined from the second e-mail message and if the delivery authorization status determined from the second e-mail message is delivery is acceptable.

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27.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 20, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to perform storing at least one of following: the authorization status, the sender identification, the addressee identification, the package identification, and the projected delivery date of the package.

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28.   A system for determining a delivery authorization status corresponding to a received package, the system comprising:

a user interface; and

a processor in communication with the user interface, wherein the processor:

receives information identifying the received package;

receives information identifying an expected package;

compares the information identifying the expected package to the information identifying the received package; and

designates the package for delivery if the information identifying the expected

20   package matches the information identifying the received package.